



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

16 JULY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
16 JULY 1966

1. North Vietnam

The Soviet press for the first time has mentioned the possibility that the North Vietnamese will put captured US airmen on trial.

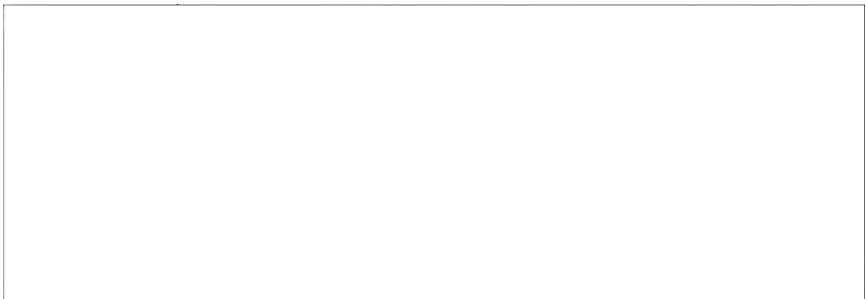
The leading government paper, Izvestia, yesterday carried a piece from its wire service correspondent in Hanoi which said "there is much talk in Hanoi about the forthcoming trial of captured American fliers. Hundreds and thousands of dead and maimed and tens of cities and villages left in ruins--this is the charge leveled by the Vietnamese against the American war criminals."

From Paris, some additional information has come out concerning Jean Sainteny's recent discussions in Hanoi. Ambassador Bohlen has been informed that Sainteny, on a personal basis, warned the North Vietnamese leaders not to miscalculate US reactions to prisoner trials. Sainteny said that trials would raise such a wave of indignation in the US that the reaction might cancel any benefits Hanoi may hope to achieve by this action.

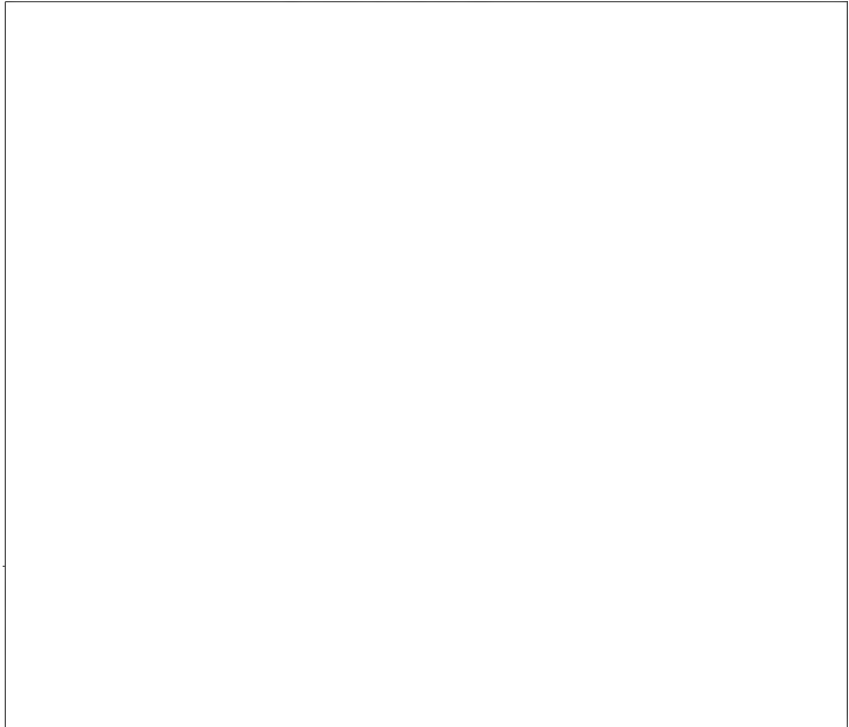
Sainteny also made known his personal "reprobation" of the humiliating manner in which US prisoners have been paraded through Hanoi.

50X1

2. Dominican Republic

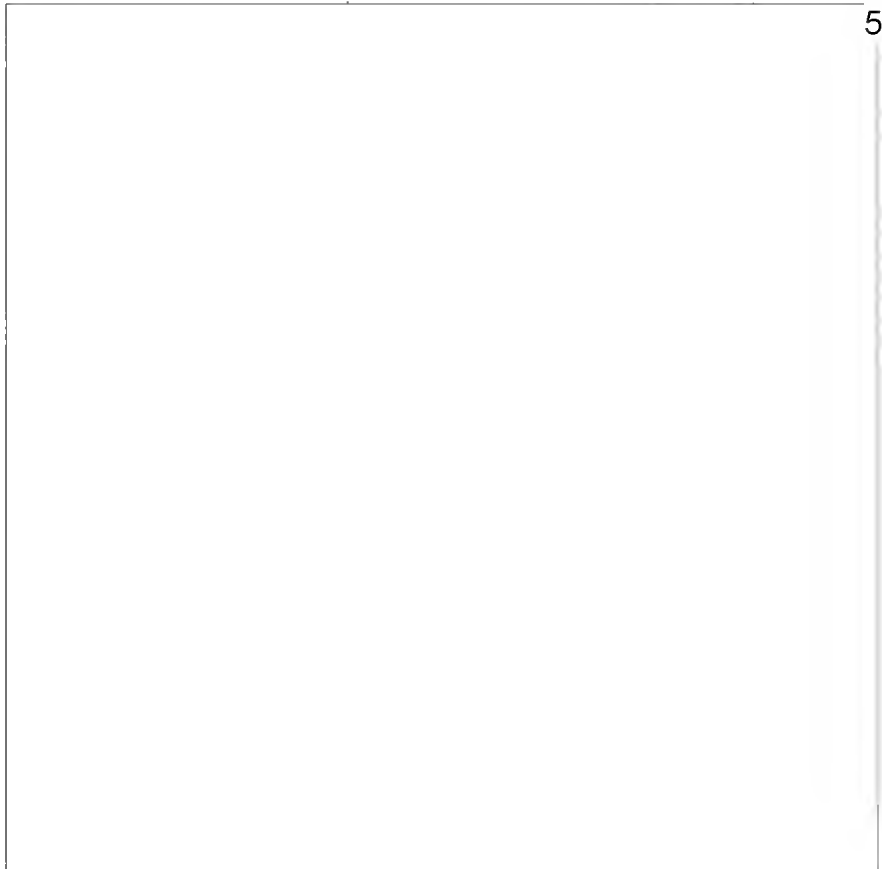


3. Congo



50X1

4. Communist China



50X1

50X1

5. Guatemala

Mendez Montenegro has been in office two weeks now.

Our embassy says things have been remarkably calm, with no terrorist-insurgency activities of any kind. There is much evidence of a desire to re-establish "constitutional normality" and remove the more blatant symbols of the military regime. The government appears to be trying to win public support by persuasion, rather than to rule from the top.

The cabinet was picked for integrity and competence, but is already beginning to realize how deep the country's social and economic problems are and how few human and material resources are at hand to deal with them.

There has been little comment concerning nepotism in appointments. However, an extreme leftist in exile in Mexico has been appointed ambassador to that country, and a Communist living in Paris made ambassador to France. This will cause concern in rightist circles where powerful civilian and military elements are still suspicious of Mendez' political orientation.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET